

CHAPTER 2. RELATED STUDIES, PROJECTS, AND PROGRAMS

The concept of a Sacramento River diversion for water supply in the Placer-Sacramento region has been included in or related to many previous and ongoing local, regional, and statewide studies, projects, and programs. This chapter contains a summary of these related efforts.

PREVIOUS PROGRAM-LEVEL STUDIES

The concept of a Sacramento River diversion can be found in two programmatic studies: the American River Water Resources Investigation (ARWRI) conducted by Reclamation and Sacramento Metropolitan Water Authority⁵ (SMWA), and the Sacramento Area Water Forum (Water Forum) conducted by local interest parties in the Placer-Sacramento region. Each of these program-level studies was performed to develop a comprehensive plan to address a complex suite of problems that could not be resolved by an individual project. The ARWRI concluded that the region has sufficient water rights and contract entitlements to meet the projected 2030 water demand, and identified an environmentally preferred alternative for future water supply needs that includes additional surface water diversions and regional conjunctive management. The WFA is a locally initiated, regional solution for developing a strategic plan that (1) provides a reliable and safe water supply for the region's economic health and planned development to 2030, and (2) preserves the fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the lower American River. Both studies concluded that conjunctive use and groundwater management are supportable and sustainable alternatives for meeting future water supply needs.

Table 2-1 compares major components of these two programmatic studies and the SRWRS. The project-specific analysis of the SRWRS addresses the programmatic components of increased/new diversions and conveyance, and groundwater management and conjunctive management. Many efforts to address other programmatic components are being developed in parallel with the SRWRS.

Table 2-1. Comparison of Major Study Components

Major Study Components	ARWRI and EIS	WFA and EIR	SRWRS
Reservoirs and Conveyance	●		
Land Retirement	●		
Stanislaus River Transfer	●		
Reclamation	●	●	
Increased/New Diversions and Conveyance	●	●	●
Conservation Program	●	●	
Groundwater Management and Conjunctive Management	●	●	●
Reoperation of Upper American River Reservoirs		●	
Improved Flow Patterns for Fish		●	
Lower American River Habitat Management		●	
Lower American River Recreation Program		●	

⁵ SWMA, now the Regional Water Authority, was established in 1990 to represent water purveyors in Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado counties for providing a unified voice on regional water issues.

American River Water Resources Investigation

Reclamation and SMWA completed the ARWRI, which was documented in a Planning Report and Final EIS in 1997. The five ARWRI objectives included the following:

1. Manage groundwater basins and surface water supplies to maintain beneficial uses and protect water quality
2. Provide water to meet projected water demands in 2030, including M&I and agricultural demands in five counties (El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Sutter)
3. Provide flows sufficient for water-oriented recreation
4. Sustain the riverine and associated biological environment
5. Be consistent with ongoing activities addressing flood protection needs

Three alternatives were developed and analyzed for the water supply and environmental needs identified in the ARWRI EIS: No-Action Alternative, Auburn Dam Alternative, and Conjunctive Use⁶ Alternative. The principal difference between the two action alternatives was the source of new yield. As the names imply, the Auburn Dam Alternative used Auburn Dam as the main source of additional water supply, while the Conjunctive Use Alternative had a large conjunctive management component. The “Common Elements” in both alternatives include a Feather River diversion for serving M&I demands in the Placer-Sacramento region, and other components that could be implemented by local water purveyors such as wastewater reclamation, conservation, new and/or expanded surface water diversions, and new surface water storage.

The ARWRI concluded that the Conjunctive Use Alternative was the environmentally superior alternative, but did not identify a Federal role for meeting future water demands within the ARWRI study area. However, Reclamation would assist local agencies with further study and/or implementing the Common Elements if provided with proper Congressional authorization and appropriation.

Sacramento Area Water Forum and the Water Forum Agreement

The Water Forum was created in 1993. The group comprises business and agricultural leaders, citizens groups, environmentalists, water managers, and local governments in the Sacramento region who joined together to meet two co-equal objectives:

1. Providing a reliable and safe water supply for the region's economic health and planned development to 2030
2. Preserving the fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the lower American River

In 2000, Water Forum members approved the WFA, which consists of seven integrated elements necessary for a regional solution to water shortages, environmental damage, groundwater contamination, and limited economic prosperity.⁷ These seven elements include the following:

⁶ Conjunctive use is an operation that coordinates management of surface water and groundwater supplies to increase total water supplies and enhance water supply reliability.

⁷ In October 1999, a programmatic EIR for the Water Forum Proposal (WFP) was completed. The WFP included the seven elements subsequently approved in the WFA. The EIR states that the WFP was the environmentally preferred alternative with significant and potentially significant impacts to the lower American River and Folsom Reservoir,

1. Increased surface water diversions
2. Actions to meet customers' needs while reducing diversion impacts in drier years
3. An improved pattern of fishery flow releases from Folsom Lake
4. Lower American River habitat management
5. Water conservation
6. Groundwater management
7. Water Forum Successor Effort

The WFA also included provisions to ensure that as each signatory fulfills its responsibilities, other signatories also honor their commitments. As part of these provisions, all signatories agreed to endorse, and where appropriate, participate in, a Sacramento River supply for north Sacramento County and Placer County. It was recognized that this additional surface water diversion would help meet a portion of some purveyors' needs in all years, and become an additional source of water for conjunctive use in the groundwater basin north of the American River. These water management actions could contribute to a reliable water supply for the area and reduce the needs for some purveyors to divert from the American River in dry years.

The groundwater management element prescribed in the WFA is a major step toward "actions to meet customers' needs while reducing diversion impacts in drier years" because it reinforces the sustainability of regional groundwater resources for dry-year supply. Signatories of the WFA will voluntarily leave surface water in the American River during "dry" years (i.e., forbear surface water diversions to which they are entitled), and use other water supply sources to meet water demands (e.g., groundwater, surface water diversions below the confluence of the American and Sacramento rivers, additional conservation, etc). Conversely, the signatories will maximize surface water diversions in "wet" years, allowing the groundwater basin to recover for use during the next dry cycle. Such a program requires modifying current water supply operations of local water purveyors and constructing additional facilities for surface water diversions, groundwater recharge and extraction, and associated conveyance systems to maximize the flexibility of the regional water supply envisioned by the WFA.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL STUDIES, PROJECTS, AND PROGRAMS

Related local and regional activities can be largely grouped into two categories: activities associated with WFA implementation and activities affecting water supply conditions or related to water supply development in Placer-Sacramento region.

Water Forum Agreement Implementation

Implementation of the elements prescribed in the WFA continues to be pursued through local and regional studies, projects, and programs. Each ongoing effort described below is directly related to a Sacramento River diversion in its water management strategy.

including effects on certain fisheries, recreational opportunities, and cultural resources. Potential mitigation measures were identified as a part of the lower American River habitat management element of the WFA.

Regional Water Master Plan (American River Basin Cooperating Agencies)

In 1998, water purveyors in southern Placer County and northern Sacramento County formed the American River Basin Cooperating Agencies (ARBCA) and began to implement the regional conjunctive management program envisioned by the Water Forum. A Regional Water Master Plan (RWMP) was developed in 2002 to conclude these efforts. The RWMP identifies project and program alternatives for implementing elements of the conjunctive use program prescribed by the WFP to achieve the following goals and objectives:

- **Provide Desired Water Supply Reliability.** Establish specific water supply reliability goals that are practical, cost-effective, and acceptable to the users of the American River and the adjacent groundwater basin, and identify operational agreements and, potentially, new facilities that will meet those reliability goals.
- **Provide High-Quality Water.** Establish water quality goals for the principal water uses of ARBCA and deliver water supplies that meet these goals for potable and other appropriate water uses.
- **Protect Economic Interests.** Protect the long-term economic interests and financial investments of ARBCA (and others).
- **Develop an Implementable Plan.** Develop a plan that elicits support from ARBCA and its customers, adjacent agencies, stakeholder groups, and the public, and is physically, economically, and politically implementable.

Alternatives developed through the RWMP encompass a range of facilities, operations, and institutional mechanisms. Although most of these projects and programs could be implemented on a stand-alone basis, every effort was made to identify opportunities for cooperative action. Facilities for a Sacramento River diversion for SRWRS cost-sharing partners were identified in the RWMP as the only major facilities which have not been built that are essential for achieving desired water supply reliability and regional conjunctive use in northern Sacramento and western Placer areas.

Subsequent implementation of the RWMP is being carried out by local water purveyors, the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA), and the Regional Water Authority (RWA). The SGA is a joint-powers authority (JPA) formed pursuant to recommendations of the WFA, and charged with protecting and regulating the groundwater basin underlying northern Sacramento County. The RWA is a JPA charged with serving and representing the regional water supply interests of its members by protecting the reliability, availability, and quality of water resources.

American River Basin Regional Conjunctive Use Program (Regional Water Authority)

The RWA American River Basin Regional Conjunctive Use Program (ARBCUP) is a \$43 million project to build and upgrade water facilities throughout the region to better manage surface and groundwater resources. ARBCUP brought together seven local water purveyors - Citrus Heights Water District, Fair Oaks Water District, PCWA, San Juan Water District (SJWD), SSWD, Roseville, and Sacramento - to transform individual projects into a regional conjunctive use plan.

ARBCUP's objectives include (1) improving the flexibility of the local water system, (2) helping preserve the groundwater basin for use in drought years, (3) promoting implementation of the WFA, and (4) exploring options for future State or Federal partnerships to provide broader, system-wide benefits. The project's 12 program components include new pipelines, pumps, and other facilities to store, treat, and convey water throughout the region. Once implemented, ARBCUP is expected to increase the region's water supplies by more than 20,000 AF of water annually with reduced cost to ratepayers. As a major regional approach, this program has received a grant from the California Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act of 2000 (Proposition 13) for 50 percent of the project implementation cost.

Water Facilities Expansion Project (Sacramento)

Sacramento currently has two water treatment plants (WTP): (1) the E.A. Fairbairn WTP (Fairbairn WTP), which diverts water from the American River, and (2) the Sacramento River WTP, which diverts water from the Sacramento River below its confluence with the American River. In November 2000, Sacramento completed an EIR for expanding these two WTPs. Expansion of the Sacramento River WTP from 110 million gallons per day (mgd) to 160 mgd was recently completed; expansion of the Fairbairn WTP from 90 mgd to 200 mgd is scheduled to be completed in 2005.

Per its WFA Purveyor Specific Agreement (PSA), Sacramento would reduce its American River diversion at the Fairbairn WTP by up to 100 mgd during low-flow conditions or critically dry years. Expanding the Sacramento River WTP would allow diversions to be shifted from the American River to the Sacramento River, alleviating environmental concerns regarding the use of the new treatment capacity for additional American River diversions during low-flow conditions. However, due to the location and limitations on available land, the expanded Sacramento River WTP only would recover part of the water supply reliability lost to diversion limitations at the Fairbairn WTP per Sacramento's WFA PSA.

Groundwater Stabilization Project (PCWA, SSWD)

The Groundwater Stabilization Project is an integral part of the conjunctive management program envisioned in the WFA to stabilize the overdrafted groundwater basin beneath the Sacramento-Placer region. This project would provide up to 29,000 AF of surface water per year to an area that has historically relied on groundwater. PCWA and SSWD finalized an EIR for the Groundwater Stabilization Project in 1998, and Implementation of the project began in 2000 through a water sale agreement between PCWA and SSWD for delivering Middle Fork Project⁸ (MFP) water at Folsom Dam.

The PCWA-SSWD water sales agreement specifies a schedule of diversion amounts that begins at 7,000 AF in 2000, reaches 29,000 AF in 2014, and continues at that amount for the remainder of the agreement period. The WFA further restricts SSWD's American River diversion of PCWA's MFP water after 2010 in hydrologic years with unimpaired inflow to Folsom Lake of less than 1,600,000 AF from March through November. This restriction anticipates a Sacramento River diversion, which could provide surface water to SSWD during other years to fully realize potential opportunities for conjunctive use and groundwater stabilization.

American River Pump Station Project (Reclamation, PCWA)

The objectives of the American River Pump Station (ARPS) project include (1) providing facilities that would allow PCWA to divert up to 35,500 AF per year of its MFP water rights, (2) eliminating a safety issue associated with the Auburn Dam bypass tunnel, and (3) allowing for all pre-Auburn-Dam-construction beneficial uses of water in what is now the dewatered river channel (e.g., recreation, navigation, and other instream beneficial uses). Reclamation and PCWA completed a final EIS/EIR in June 2002 for this project. PCWA approved the project in July 2002, and Reclamation issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for project implementation in September 2002. Construction started in late 2003 and the anticipated completion date is in 2006. Prior to construction, Reclamation and PCWA entered into a contract that outlines the protocol for transferring the titles of ARPS facilities and easements after construction is completed.

⁸ The MFP is owned and operated by PCWA as a multipurpose project designed to conserve and control waters of the Middle Fork American River, the Rubicon River, and certain tributaries for irrigation, domestic, commercial, and recreational purposes and for generating electricity. The French Meadows and Hell Hole reservoirs are two major storage facilities of the MFP.

American Basin Fish Screen and Habitat Improvement Project (NMWC)

The American Basin Fish Screen and Habitat Improvement Project (ABFSHIP), supported by funding from the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) Anadromous Fish Screen Program (AFSP) and CALFED Environmental Restoration Program (ERP), is to consolidate five existing diversions of Natomas Mutual Water Company (NMWC) and one other diversion of local riparian water right holders on the Sacramento River into one or two new diversion facilities with fish screens. The WFA recommends the consolidation and screening of these diversions to benefit the environment and Sacramento River fisheries.

NMWC completed a Feasibility Study Technical Report for ABFSHIP in 2000. Currently, NMWC, Reclamation (NEPA lead agency) and CDFG (California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency) are preparing an EIS/EIR for ABFSHIP. As a project supported by CALFED funding, ABFSHIP is currently undergoing an environmental review process and is developing an Action Specific Implementation Plan (ASIP) for its proposed actions. All three action alternatives under consideration (Sankey/Elkhorn Diversions, Sankey Diversion, and Prichard Diversion) include a total screened diversion capacity of 644⁹ cfs, removal of a dam at the mouth of the Natomas Cross Canal (NCC), improvements to NMWC's canal distribution system, and corresponding revised operation for water delivery. The Sankey/Elkhorn Diversions alternative is the proposed action under the ASIP process. The final decision(s) on ABFSHIP will be made after completing the environmental compliance process in late 2005.

PL 106-554 authorized a feasibility study for a Sacramento River diversion with facilities considered under both the SRWRS and ABFSHIP; however, these two studies have been developed as separate projects. ABSHIP was already under development when SRWRS was authorized.

Lower American River Flow Management Standards

Water Right Decision 893 (D-893) contains minimum instream flow provisions for protecting beneficial uses, including fish, in the lower American River. In 1972, the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued D-1400, setting fishery flows for the American River higher than those in D-893 as a condition of permits for the proposed Auburn Dam. Auburn Dam was never constructed, and the D-1400 flows were never imposed. Reclamation currently implements modified D-1400 flows that incorporate the flow objectives of the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP) pursuant to the CVPIA. The subject of water rights and instream flows was addressed in a January 2, 1990, judgment of the Superior Court for the County of Alameda (*Environmental Defense Fund, Inc. v. East Bay Municipal Utility District*, Case No. 425955), known as the Hodge Decision.

The Hodge Decision directed the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to divert from the lower American River based on its CVP contractual entitlement only when specified flows, known as the Hodge Flows, would remain in the river. Hodge flows are 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from October 15 through the end of February, 3,000 cfs from March 1 through June 30, and 1,750 cfs from July 1 through October 14. Although the Hodge Decision applies only to parties to that lawsuit, WFA signatories (such as Sacramento) volunteer to observe the flow requirements when reasonable and feasible alternatives exist to recover from resulting loss of water supply reliability. Pursuant to the WFA, the Water Forum has developed a proposed Flow Management Standard (FMS) through implementing two WFA elements: Improved Pattern of Fishery Flow Releases from Folsom Reservoir, and Lower American River Habitat Management. The

⁹ The Sankey/Elkhorn Diversions alternative would include a 434-cfs diversion near Sankey Road and a 210-cfs diversion near existing NMWC's Elkhorn diversion; the Sankey Diversion alternative would have a 644-cfs diversion near Sankey Road; the Prichard Diversion alternative would have a 644-cfs diversion near Prichard Lake.

primary purpose of the FMS is to maximize the annual production and survival of the anadromous fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead in the lower American River, with water availability constraints, and consider Reclamation's obligation to provide for multipurpose, beneficial uses of Folsom Dam and Reservoir.

In 2004, Reclamation, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Water Forum entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the process for developing an FMS and related information to be forwarded to the SWRCB for consideration regarding amending Reclamation's water right permits. The tentative schedule suggests the process may be completed in 2005. Similar to the SRWRS, the FMS is part of the water management measures in the WFA for protecting the ecosystem of the lower American River.

Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum

The Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum (CSCGF) was initiated in 2002 to carry out a portion of the Water Forum's mission to develop mutually agreed-on recommendations for protecting the health and viability of the central Sacramento County groundwater basin for both current users and future generations. Members of the CSCGF include the Water Forum Successor Effort, California Department of Water Resources (DWR), water purveyors, local governments, and public agencies in the region, and groups of agricultural, residential, business, environmental and community interests. Similar to SGA, CSCGF is to develop a common vision among participants to develop a solution package for conjunctive management in the central Sacramento County groundwater basin between the American and Cosumnes rivers and east to the Sacramento River.

Other Related Local and Regional Studies, Projects, and Programs

The following activities are related to the SRWRS because of their connection to the water supply of the SRWRS cost-sharing partners, and their significance in regional planning efforts.

Aerojet Superfund Site Cleanup (Aerojet General Corporation)

Sacramento region has several Superfund sites, notably the Sacramento Army Depot, Mather Air Force Base (AFB), McClellan AFB, and Aerojet General Corporation (Aerojet). Of these sites, the Aerojet Superfund Site poses the greatest threat to the regional groundwater system.

The Aerojet Superfund Site encompasses 5,900 acres near Rancho Cordova, 15 miles east of Sacramento. The northeastern edge of the site is about 1/2 mile from the American River. In 1979, volatile organic compounds (VOC) were found off site in private wells, and also were found in the American River in 1983. Perchlorate, a component of solid rocket fuel, was found in January 1997 at levels above the provisional reference dose range in drinking water wells off site. The plume of contaminants from the site is moving generally toward the southwest, corresponding to the topography and underlying geological formations, and had been reported previously only in areas south of the American River. As an interim measure, between 1983 and 1987, five groundwater extraction and treatment facilities were installed as a barrier system to prevent further off-site movement of VOCs. However, concern about impacts to water supply wells was heightened by recent sampling of existing wells in May 2004, which showed that the contaminant plume extends northwest underneath the American River and below the southern edge of Carmichael.

Communities potentially affected by Aerojet pollution include Rancho Cordova, Carmichael, Fair Oaks, and Sacramento. Groundwater is used extensively throughout these communities to supply municipal, domestic, industrial, and some irrigation water. Public and private drinking water supply wells have been contaminated. Wells contaminated above action levels have been shut off. Aerojet continues to monitor drinking water supplies to assure compliance with drinking water standards with oversight by the California Department of Health Service (DHS). Additional concerns also exist for nearby Lake Natoma and Alder Creek, which are used for recreation, and the American River, which is used for public water supplies and

recreation. As a result of the Aerojet contamination, water purveyors in the affected area are currently developing solutions for replacing the lost water supply.

Joint Sacramento City-County Natomas Vision General Plan Amendment Project (Sacramento-County of Sacramento)

Sacramento and the County of Sacramento entered into an MOU in December 2002 for developing and implementing a joint Sacramento City-County Natomas Vision General Plan Amendment Project (Natomas Joint Vision). These parties have mutual policy and economic interests in accommodating limited long-term development while permanently preserving open space within the Natomas area. This area is currently designated agriculture/open space in the Sacramento County General Plan and no new land uses are proposed at this time.

Sacramento issued a Notice to Proceed (NOP) in October 2003 for preparing an EIR for the consequent Natomas Joint Vision, which covers about 25,000 acres in an unincorporated area of Natomas. Although the EIR is being undertaken primarily to evaluate Sacramento's General Plan amendment, the County of Sacramento also will use the EIR for adopting its General Plan amendment to create basic policies for the Natomas area.

The proposed policies considered in the Natomas Joint Vision are intended to promote agriculture viability, permanent open space and habitat conservation, Sacramento International Airport protection, and long-term development consistent with the "smart growth" principles shared by Sacramento and the County of Sacramento. Particularly, three special areas would be established:

1. Areas of Concern — These unincorporated areas would be directly related to Sacramento's long-range planning effort and thus, actions in these areas require active cooperation and coordination between Sacramento, the County of Sacramento, and other jurisdictions. The Areas of Concern include the permanent open space/agricultural mitigation area for the Natomas Joint Vision.
2. Urban Reserve – This area is outside Sacramento's current Sphere of Influence (SOI) in which future development and extension of municipal services are contemplated but not imminent.
3. Community Separator — These are open space areas used for creating clear separation between communities, defining the transition between urban and rural uses, and providing gateways that define entrances to the city. A greenbelt is proposed near the county line to separate Sutter County and the Urban Reserve area.

If the amendments are approved, Sacramento will work with the Sacramento County Local Agency Formation Commission (SacLAFCo) and County of Sacramento to revise its SOI to include the Urban Reserve area. It is anticipated that the final EIR and proposed General Plan amendments would require several years of effort; thus, the water supply plan for this planning area is excluded from consideration in the SRWRS.

Redundant Water Supply Outlet at Folsom Dam (United States Army Corps of Engineers, Roseville)

This study and potential implementation were authorized in the 1992 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA, PL 102-580), as amended in the 1996 WRDA (PL 104-303) and 1999 WRDA. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Roseville are the Federal and non-Federal cost-sharing partners for this effort. Roseville also has a third-party agreement for cost-sharing with SJWD and the City of Folsom (Folsom).

The planned redundant water supply outlet is to provide redundancy to raw water supply systems of Roseville, SJWD, and Folsom to increase reliability, provide water during required maintenance and emergency outages of the existing outlet works, and to address security concerns. The outlet will not be used for additional water supply on a regular basis.

Currently, Roseville, SJWD, and Folsom divert water at Folsom Dam through an outlet works located in Block No. 7 of the concrete gravity dam near the right abutment. The 84-inch-diameter outlet conduit is protected at the upstream face by trashracks. In 2003, the intake was retrofitted with a multilevel inlet temperature control device (TCD) for the purpose of controlling water temperature. Flow through the outlet bifurcates into an 84-inch-diameter pipeline for delivery to Roseville and SJWD, and a 42-inch-diameter pipeline for delivery to Folsom. Pumping is controlled by the Folsom Pumping Plant, which is equipped with six pumps with a total capacity of 400 cfs, and located on the right abutment just downstream of the dam above the powerhouse. The intake, conveying pipeline, and pumping plant are owned and operated by Reclamation.

Comprehensive maintenance of the existing primary intake structure and pipeline is not possible without establishing an adequate redundant water supply system. The study has identified the proposed action to install a redundant outlet by tapping into the sides of existing power penstocks No. 2 and No. 3, and to construct a necessary pipeline to the existing pumping station. Environmental documentation is expected in early 2005 with construction potentially starting in late 2005.

Reoperation of Folsom Dam and Reservoir (Reclamation, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency)

In 1995, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) and Reclamation entered into a “Contract Between the United States of America and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency Concerning the Operation of Folsom Dam and Reservoir” (Interim Agreement). The Interim Agreement improved flood control operations in the American River watershed by increasing the storage space available to contain winter flood flows in Folsom Reservoir whenever such space is unavailable in the three largest upstream non-Federal reservoirs (French Meadows, Hell Hole, and Union Valley). This variable storage space operation requires Reclamation to provide a minimum of 400,000 AF and a maximum of 670,000 AF of flood control storage (400/670) in Folsom Reservoir during the November through March flood season. The Interim Agreement was initially for a 5-year period (i.e., 1995 through 1999) and expired in October 1999. Since 1999, it has been extended on a yearly basis.

In the 1996 WRDA (PL 104-303), Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to continue operating Folsom Dam and Reservoir with the variable 400/670 flood control space and to extend the agreement between Reclamation and SAFCA with respect to the watershed until such time as a comprehensive flood damage reduction plan for the American River watershed is implemented. The comprehensive flood damage reduction plan has been developed under USACE’s American River Watershed Project, in which long-term operation with the 400/670 flood control space was assumed.

SAFCA and Reclamation completed an EIR/Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Interim Agreement in 1994. The 1994 EIR/EA considered the potential effects of the modified flood control operation for a 12-year term (through 2006). Pursuant to requirements of CEQA, SAFCA prepared a Program Environmental Impact Report on Flood Control Improvements along the Mainstem of the American River (Program EIR) in March 2000 to analyze potential effects of continuing the 400/670 variable space storage operation. Currently, Reclamation is preparing an EA to complement SAFCA’s 2000 Program EIR, and identify conditions that changed after the 1994 EIR/EA.

Major relevant changes after the 1994 EIR/EA contained in the Program EIR and EA (under development) include water quality requirements at the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) per D-1641, CVPIA implementation, and listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) additional endangered or threatened species that depend in part on the lower American River. SAFCA’s Program EIR suggests that

these changed conditions have limited the operational flexibility of the CVP and concentrated the impacts of the 400/670 variable storage space operations to a greater degree in the lower American River than anticipated. Findings from the Program EIR and EA would be used to formulate a long-term agreement for reoperation.

American River Watershed Investigation (USACE, Reclamation Board, SAFCA)

Effects of a flood that occurred in 1986 raised concerns over the adequacy of the existing flood control system, and initiated more than a decade of efforts for improving flood protection in the Sacramento area. Because of their emphasis on flood protection, water supply benefits from these projects are minimal; however, physical modifications included in these projects may affect opportunities for developing new water supply infrastructure.

USACE, the Reclamation Board, and SAFCA completed an initial feasibility study report in 1991 for the American River Watershed Investigation. Congress authorized construction for much of the work identified in the Natomas area, as described in the initial feasibility study report, but directed that additional studies be conducted to identify a project for increased flood protection along the American River. Subsequently, USACE, the Reclamation Board, and SAFCA developed a 1996 Supplemental Information Report (SIR) and Supplemental EIS/EIR to provide additional information, and several authorizations resulted for implementing selected features recommended in the SIR.

Common Features

In the 1996 WRDA (PL 104-303), Congress authorized construction of features common to the three candidate plans identified in the SIR: Folsom Modification Plan, Folsom Stepped Release Plan, and the Detention Dam Plan. Authorized implementation included construction of slurry walls in the levees along the lower American River, levee modifications along the east bank of the Sacramento River downstream from the NCC, installation of telemeter streamflow gauges upstream from the Folsom Reservoir, and modifications to the flood warning system along the lower American River.

The plan for levee modifications along the east bank of the Sacramento River is to raise and strengthen approximately 12.1 miles of the Sacramento River east (left) bank levee, south of the NCC, which is located approximately at river mile (RM) 78.0 on the left bank. This effort is currently being studied and designed under USACE and the State Reclamation Board.

As an alternative approach to resolving the Natomas levee erosion problem, SAFCA is currently conducting a feasibility study for setting back the Sacramento River east bank levee, from the NCC to the first waterside home, for a total distance of approximately 1.5 miles. Setting back this reach of levee could have added benefits as it also would serve as mitigation for corrective actions at other erosion sites. Coordination with ABFSHIP and the SRWRS would be required after preliminary results of this feasibility study become available in 2005.

Folsom Dam Modification

The Folsom Dam Modification Project includes modifications of outlet works and surcharge storage. Construction of these two components is being phased for several reasons. First, design and construction of the outlet works modification component would take about 6 years and can be accomplished with few adverse social or environmental effects. Second, modification of the use of surcharge storage would provide additional flood control space in the reservoir. Many of the project features that would be needed to implement surcharge also may be needed to implement raising Folsom Dam, one of the alternatives being investigated in the American River Watershed Investigation Long-Term Study. However, some features would be different. If modified use of surcharge is constructed now, Long-Term Study features such as the new emergency spillway tainter gates and dikes may have to be modified again. Phased construction will

allow ample time for a final decision to be made on recommended actions from the American River Watershed Investigation Long-Term Study. Once the Folsom Modification Project is complete, USACE would revise the Water Control Manual for Folsom Dam. The tentative schedule for completing proposed modifications is in 2009, according to the August 2001 Final Limited Reevaluation Report prepared by USACE.

Folsom Dam Mini-Raise

The 2003 WRDA authorizes Folsom Dam Mini-Raise of 7 feet, which would enable Sacramento's flood control system to handle storms far larger than any recorded event in the American River watershed. The mini-raise has broad support at the local, State, and Federal levels. Details of implementation are under development.

Regional Conservation Plan Development

To accommodate rapid urbanization in the Placer-Sacramento region, land use authorities are developing regional conservation plans for a comprehensive and balanced approach to habitat conservation and urban development. These efforts include developing a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) per Section 2800 et. seq. of the California Fish and Game Code, and/or a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) per Section 10 of the 1973 ESA. As a part of developing these two conservation plans, many agencies include conditions for satisfying permitting requirements related to wetland impacts per Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA 404 Permit), and other permit requirements to further streamline the permitting process for anticipated land use development.

Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan

The Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (NBHCP), developed in 2002 by Sacramento, Sutter County, and the Natomas Basin Conservancy, applies to the 53,341-acre interior of the Natomas Basin, located in the northern portion of Sacramento County and the southern portion of Sutter County. The basin contains incorporated and unincorporated areas within the jurisdictions of Sacramento, and the counties of Sacramento and Sutter. Although most of the basin is currently used for agriculture, urbanized areas also exist, as in the southern portion of the basin, which contains Sacramento International Airport, Metro Air Park, and Sacramento's North Natomas Community Plan area.

The purpose of the NBHCP is to promote biological conservation along with economic development and continuation of agriculture within Natomas Basin. The NBHCP establishes a multispecies conservation program to mitigate the expected loss of habitat values and incidental take of protected species that would result from urban development, operation of irrigation and drainage systems, and rice farming. A draft EIS/EIR was prepared in 2002; however, its implementation has been delayed by pending litigation.

Placer County Natural Community Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan

Placer County Planning Department currently is preparing an NCCP/HCP. Development of this NCCP/HCP, as part of the Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program, consists of three phases. Phase 1 of the NCCP/HCP development focuses on conservation strategies for the fast-developing flat land and lower foothills of the Sierra Nevada in western Placer County. Phase 2 will cover the upper foothills of the Sierra Nevada and rapidly developing areas east of the Sierra crest, and Phase 3 will include public and private timberlands in the Sierra Nevada. The draft conservation plan is scheduled to be released in 2004, and the financial analysis and environmental review process completed in 2005.

South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan

Sacramento County Municipal Services Agency's Department of Planning and Community Development is preparing a multispecies, multihabitat South Sacramento HCP (SSHCP) to consolidate environmental efforts for protecting and enhancing wetlands (primarily vernal pools) and upland habitats, and providing ecologically viable conservation areas. The SSHCP encompasses about 341,000 acres in south Sacramento County, including the unincorporated area bounded by Highway 50 to the north, the county line to the east and south (excluding the Delta), and Interstate 5 to the west. Release of the draft SSHCP is scheduled for late 2004, and environmental review will be completed in 2005.

STATEWIDE STUDIES, PROJECTS, AND PROGRAMS

The limited water resources in California are highly utilized for different beneficial uses. The development of the SRWRS would need to consider relevant studies, projects, and programs that may potentially affect water availability or environmental considerations.

Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study (USACE, Reclamation Board)

In response to extensive flooding and damages experienced in January 1997, Congress authorized USACE to provide a comprehensive analysis of the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River basins flood management systems, and to partner with the State of California to develop master plans for flood management. USACE and the Reclamation Board are leading the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study (Comprehensive Study) to improve flood management and integrate ecosystem restoration in the Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins.

The objectives of the Comprehensive Study are to identify problems and opportunities, set planning objectives and priorities, and develop potential measures to address flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration. The study would examine a full range of structural and nonstructural measures and strategies. The basin master plans would include implementation plans and supporting programmatic environmental documentation. In the Sacramento region, the Comprehensive Study is working closely with SAFCA in evaluating and implementing flood control options on the American River and in the Natomas Basin.

Operations of CVP and SWP

The CVP is a multipurpose project operated by Reclamation that stores and transfers water from the Sacramento River, San Joaquin River, and Trinity River basins to the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Santa Clara valleys. The CVP was authorized by Congress in 1937, and operates as an integrated system to serve water supply, hydropower generation, flood control, navigation, fish and wildlife, recreation, and water quality control purposes. The CVP service area extends about 430 miles through much of California's Central Valley, from Trinity and Shasta reservoirs in the north to Bakersfield in the south. The CVP also includes the San Felipe Unit, which delivers water to the Santa Clara Valley.

The State Water Project (SWP) is a multipurpose project operated by DWR. Thirty agencies throughout California have contracted with the SWP for an annual 4.2 million AF of water. Existing SWP facilities can supply less than 2.4 million AF during drought conditions. Additional facilities are planned to increase supply. Since 1962, the SWP has delivered water from Lake Oroville in the Feather River watershed through the Delta to the San Francisco Bay area, the San Joaquin Valley, a portion of coastal areas, and southern California.

The statewide water supply is largely controlled by operations of the CVP and SWP in accordance with applicable water rights, contract entitlements, and regulatory requirements. Conflicts exist as limited water resources are allocated among increasing demands in consumptive and nonconsumptive uses (including environmental needs). Thus, many previous and ongoing statewide efforts focus on developing solutions to

these conflicts. Development of the SRWRS must consider statewide water supply conditions not only because a portion of the diversions considered under the SRWRS are CVP contract entitlements, but also because the SRWRS may be affected by implementation of other previous or ongoing statewide efforts such as the CVPIA, CALFED, and the Sacramento Valley Water Management Program (SVWMP).

Coordinated Operation Agreement

The CVP and SWP use the Sacramento River and the Delta in common as conveyance facilities. Reservoir releases and Delta exports must be coordinated to ensure that the projects operate according to agreed-on procedures. The Coordinated Operation Agreement (COA) between the United States and DWR to operate the CVP and SWP was signed in November 1986. Under the COA, Reclamation and DWR agreed to operate the CVP and SWP in a manner to meet Sacramento Valley and Delta needs while maintaining their respective annual water supplies as identified in the agreement.

Coordination between these two projects is facilitated through an accounting procedure based on the sharing principles outlined in the COA. When water must be withdrawn from storage to meet Sacramento Valley and Delta requirements, 75 percent of the responsibility is borne by the CVP and 25 percent by the SWP. The COA also provides that when unstored water is available for export, 55 percent of it is allocated to the CVP and 45 percent is allocated to the SWP.

Although the principles in the COA were intended to cover a broad range of conditions, changes introduced by past biological opinions (BO) from the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries) and USFWS, D-1641, and the CVPIA were not specifically addressed by the COA. Instead, these variances have been addressed by Reclamation and DWR through mutual informal agreement.

Operations Criteria and Plan

In June 2004, Reclamation prepared a Long-Term CVP Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP) to update the proposed CVP operation in view of changes in regulations, increases in system demand, and anticipated new programs/projects coming on-line in the future. (The last version of OCAP was dated 1992.) Implementation of the revised OCAP is subject to ESA consultation, which was recently concluded in October 2004.

SWP operation is not subject to the OCAP; however, because of necessary coordination between the CVP and SWP, the biological assessment (BA) for the ESA consultation was jointly prepared by Reclamation and DWR to address potential effects of long-term CVP and SWP operations.

This consultation includes several actions with a completed or ongoing environmental review process such as the Freeport Regional Diversion Project, the intertie between the California Aqueduct and Delta-Mendota Canal, the South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP), Long-Term Environmental Water Account (EWA). The significance of the SDIP is that it may officially increase the current Delta export pumping capacity at the Banks Pumping Plant from 6,680 cfs to 8,500 cfs. Several actions with previously completed environmental review processes also were included in this consultation, such as the 2000 Trinity River ROD, AFRP flow objectives, the 1993 Winter Run BO, the revised decision on CVPIA Section 3406(b)(2) water, EWA, the Joint Point of Diversion (JPOD), and the Draft Proposition Concerning CVP/SWP Integrated Operation (also known as the Napa Proposition).

Central Valley Project Improvement Act

The CVPIA was included in the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (PL 102-575) as Title XXXIV. The CVPIA amends previous authorizations of the CVP by designating fish and

wildlife protection, restoration, and mitigation as project purposes equal in priority with irrigation and domestic water supply uses, and giving fish and wildlife enhancement equal priority with power generation.

Major areas of change stipulated in the CVPIA include 800,000 AF of water dedicated to fish and wildlife annually (also known as (b)(2) water); tiered water pricing applicable to new and renewed contracts; water transfers provision, including sale of water to users outside the CVP service area; special efforts to restore anadromous fish population; restoration fund financed by water and power users for habitat restoration and enhancement and water and land acquisitions; no new water contracts until fish and wildlife goals are achieved; no contract renewals until completion of a Programmatic EIS (PEIS); terms of contracts reduced from 40 to 25 years with renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior; installation of the TCD at Shasta Dam; implementation of fish passage measures at Red Bluff Diversion Dam; firm water supplies for Central Valley wildlife refuges; and development of a plan to increase CVP yield.

The Final PEIS for CVPIA implementation was completed in October 1999, and Reclamation subsequently issued a ROD in January 2001 for implementing the recommended plan.

(b)(2) Water

Implementation of the CVPIA (b)(2) provision has been a contentious process, marked by conflict between Federal and State parties, and substantial litigation. The primary dispute has been whether (b)(2) water translates into an automatic reduction in exports under water supply contracts. In May 2003, Reclamation released a final decision on implementation of Section 3406 (b)(2). The decision incorporates parts of an earlier decision (U.S. Department of the Interior 1999 Final Decision), modifies other decisions, and adds new components. The intent of these changes was to simplify and clarify the accounting process for (b)(2) water uses and to integrate (b)(2) water dedication and management with CVP operations for other CVP purposes.

Trinity River Restoration Plan

In December 2000, the Secretary of Interior issued a ROD documenting selection of actions necessary to restore and maintain the anadromous fishery in the Trinity River. This ROD was the culmination of a nearly 20-year process of detailed scientific efforts. The Trinity ROD implements a component of the CVPIA (Section 3406(b)(23)) intended to meet Federal trust responsibilities for protecting the fishery resources of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and to meet the fishery restoration goals of PL 98-541 (October 24, 1984). The ROD adopts a preferred alternative that includes restoration and perpetual maintenance of the Trinity River's fishery resources, which would result in rehabilitation of the river itself through restoration of the attributes that produce a healthy, functioning alluvial river system. The preferred alternative reduced the average annual export of Trinity River water from 74 percent of flow to 52 percent.

Major components of the selected course of action include (1) a variable annual instream flow for the Trinity River ranging from 369,000 to 815,000 AF per year, (2) physical channel rehabilitation, (3) sediment management, including supplementation of spawning gravels, (4) watershed restoration efforts, and (5) river infrastructure improvements. Implementation of the ROD was delayed by litigation, but resumed after a Ninth Circuit Court ruling in July 2004 to uphold the ROD flow schedule.

Anadromous Fish Restoration Program

The CVPIA directed the Secretary of the Interior to amend previous authorizations of the CVP to "include fish and wildlife protection, restoration, and mitigation as project purposes having equal priority with irrigation and domestic use and fish and wildlife enhancement as a project purpose equal to power generation."

Section 3406(b)(1) of the CVPIA directs the Secretary of the Interior to develop and implement a program that makes all reasonable efforts to at least double natural production of anadromous fish in California's Central Valley streams on a long-term, sustainable basis. The primary resulting program is known as the AFRP. In 2001, USFWS prepared a Final Restoration Plan for the AFRP. The program relies heavily on local involvement and partnerships with property owners, watershed workgroups, public and private organizations, county and local governments, and State and Federal agencies. It requires significant coordination with restoration efforts by other groups, such as CDFG, Category III of the Bay-Delta Agreement, the San Joaquin River Management Program, and the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Since 1995, the AFRP has helped implement over 195 projects to restore natural production of anadromous fish, including fish screen upgrades for Sacramento's Water Facility Expansion Project, and ABFSHIP.

Long-Term Contract Renewal

In accordance with CVPIA Section 3404c, Reclamation is renegotiating long-term water service contracts. As many as 113 CVP water service contracts located within the Central Valley of California may be renewed during this process. Reclamation issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) for long-term contract renewal in October 1998. Environmental documentation was prepared on a regional basis. In February 2005, Reclamation has issued decisions (a ROD or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)) for renewing contracts of the Sacramento River, San Luis, and Delta-Mendota Canal divisions, the Sacramento River Settlement Contracts, and several individual contracts. Preparation of environmental documents for other divisions and contracts are ongoing.

Reclamation has completed a draft EIS for renewing contracts within the American River Division, which includes the Folsom Unit, Sly Park Unit, and Auburn-Folsom South Unit of the CVP. The proposed contracts are for delivery of up to about 330,000 AF per year of CVP water for M&I uses for an additional 40 years for the El Dorado Irrigation District, EBMUD, PCWA, Roseville, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA), and SJWD. This EIS and its associated ROD are required to execute CVP water service contracts with PCWA (35,000 AF per year) and Roseville (32,000 AF per year).

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta System. CALFED's four primary objectives are to (1) provide good water quality for all beneficial uses, (2) improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species, (3) reduce the mismatch between Bay-Delta water supplies and current and projected beneficial uses dependent on the Bay-Delta system, and (4) reduce the risk to land use and associated economic activities, water supply, infrastructure, and the ecosystem from catastrophic breaching of Delta levees.

The California Bay-Delta Act of 2003 established the California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA) as the new governance structure and charged it with providing accountability, ensuring balanced implementation, tracking and assessing program progress, using sound science, assuring public involvement and outreach, and coordinating and integrating related government programs. The CBDA oversees the Federal and State agencies working cooperatively through the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, including the following:

- **Federal agencies.** Reclamation, USFWS, United States Geological Survey (USGS), Bureau of Land Management, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USACE, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Forest Service, NOAA Fisheries, and the Western Area Power Administration.

- **State agencies.** CBDA, California State Parks, DWR, CDFG, the Reclamation Board, Delta Protection Commission, Department of Conservation, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, California Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA), SWRCB, DHS, and Department of Food and Agriculture.

In 2004, Congress passed the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, also known as the CALFED Bay-Delta Authorization Act, to formalize Federal participation in continued CALFED activities for implementing the CALFED ROD.

The SRWRS is not a CALFED project and thus, is not subject to the ASIP process. However, coordination with CALFED efforts is required in identifying alternatives to reduce potential water supply impacts, as stated in the SRWRS authorization.

1994 Bay-Delta Accord and SWRCB Decision-1641

To provide ecosystem protection for the Bay-Delta Estuary, representatives of the Federal and State governments and urban, agricultural, and environmental interests entered into “Principles for Agreement on Bay-Delta Standards between the State of California and the Federal Government” in December 1994 to implement a Bay-Delta protection plan through the SWRCB. Subsequently in 1995, the SWRCB issued a draft Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. The draft WQCP specified revised flow and water quality standards in the Delta and regulated CVP and SWP operations potentially affecting the Delta. The EIR, which was completed in 1999, concluded that implementing the draft WQCP would have unavoidable impacts on water supply.

The SWRCB issued D-1641 in December 1999, and later revised it in March 2000 to amend certain terms and conditions of the water rights of the CVP and SWP. This decision requires that the CVP and SWP be responsible for meeting Delta water quality flow and salinity objectives for fish and wildlife protection, M&I water quality, agricultural water quality, and Suisun Marsh salinity, as specified in the WQCP, until a settlement was reached with other Sacramento Valley water right holders (this settlement process is also known as the “Phase 8 Proceedings”). SWRCB D-1641 also authorizes the CVP and SWP to jointly use each other’s point of diversion in the southern Delta, with conditional limitations and required response coordination plans.

Under D-1641, the CVP and SWP often make additional releases from storage for meeting water quality objectives in the Delta. For the CVP, operating Folsom Reservoir to meet Delta water quality objectives is considered more efficient and effective because it is closer (i.e., shorter travel time) and the water quality of the American River is often better than that of the Sacramento River.

CALFED Programmatic Record of Decision

Following the issuance of a CALFED PEIS/EIR in July 2000, the CALFED agencies issued a programmatic ROD in August 2000 that identified 12 action plans, including plans for Governance, Ecosystem Restoration, Watersheds, Water Supply Reliability, Storage, Conveyance, EWA, Water Use Efficiency, Water Quality, Water Transfer, Levees, and Science Programs. The CALFED agencies then began implementing Stage 1 of the ROD, including the first 7 years of a 30-year program for establishing a foundation for long-term actions.

Storage Investigations

The CALFED ROD describes additional water storage as an important activity for improving water quality and water supply reliability for California. Through the ROD Storage Program, both surface water and groundwater storage projects in the Central Valley will be developed as part of an overall water management strategy. Groundwater and surface water storage may be used to improve water supply reliability, provide water for the environment at times when it is needed most, provide flows timed to maintain water quality,

and protect levees through coordinated operation with existing flood control reservoirs. As part of Stage 1 implementation of the ROD, the following investigations are underway:

- **In-Delta Storage Program.** In-Delta storage would help meet ecosystem needs of the Delta, EWA, and CVPIA; provide water for use within the Delta; and increase reliability, operational flexibility, and water availability for south-of-Delta CVP and SWP contractors. Lease/purchase of the proposed Delta Wetlands Project and potential for a new storage project are being explored.
- **Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation.** This investigation explores an expansion of the dam and reservoir to help increase the pool of cold water available to maintain water temperatures in the lower Sacramento River needed for certain fish, and to provide other water management benefits such as water supply reliability.
- **Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Studies.** These studies examine expanding the existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir with local partners as part of an initiative to provide water quality and water supply reliability benefits to Bay Area water users.
- **North of the Delta Offstream Storage.** The feasibility of a new offstream storage facility is being evaluated. This new north-of-Delta reservoir would enhance water management flexibility in the Sacramento Valley, and provide fisheries, water quality, and EWA benefits.
- **Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation.** This investigation evaluates a range of approaches to increase water supplies, including enlarging Millerton Lake at Friant Dam or developing a functionally equivalent storage program. This storage would help restore and improve water quality of the San Joaquin River, and facilitate conjunctive water management and water exchanges that would improve the quality of water deliveries to urban communities.

These storage programs could have significant effects on water management of the CVP/SWP system. Study development for these storage programs and associated environmental documentation will continue through 2007.

Common Assumptions

DWR is working with Reclamation and other CALFED storage and supply project teams to develop Common Assumptions for CALSIM II Benchmark Studies. Developing Common Assumptions is an effort to establish common baseline conditions for feasibility studies for various CALFED water storage and water supply projects. Baseline conditions include existing conditions (2001) for compliance with CEQA, future conditions (2030) for compliance with NEPA, and CALFED alternative future conditions (2030), which are built on the NEPA baseline with additional assumptions for implementing nonstructural measures specified in the CALFED ROD.

Due to the dominant role of CALFED projects in the current water management landscape, it is anticipated that the CALFED Common Assumptions, once completed, would be used by non-CALFED studies and projects.

Sacramento Valley Water Management Program

The SVWMP is a collaborative effort to increase water supplies for farms, cities, and the environment by responding to water rights issues associated with implementation of the WQCP.

Since 1996, the SWRCB has engaged in proceedings to determine responsibility for meeting water quality standards in the Delta. The SWRCB has completed Phases 1 through 7 of these proceedings, leading to the issuance of D-1641, and continues to focus on Phase 8 involving water right holders on the Sacramento

River and its tributaries. Through the SVWMP efforts, a Short-Term Settlement Agreement¹⁰ was executed in December 2002 by more than 40 water suppliers in the Sacramento Valley (Upstream Water Users), Reclamation, DWR, USFWS, CDFG, Contra-Costa Water District, and SWP contractors representing agricultural and municipal water users in Southern California, the central coast, and the San Joaquin Valley. Execution of this agreement resulted in the SWRCB automatically dismissing the Phase 8 process on January 31, 2003.

This Short-Term Settlement Agreement includes stipulations regarding implementing a series of short-term projects (up to 10 years after implementation) to meet unmet demands in the Sacramento Valley, and to provide at least 92,500 AF and up to 185,000 AF of water to augment CVP and SWP water supplies during certain year types. These projects would be owned and operated by the Upstream Water Users.

Reclamation and DWR issued an NOI and NOP, respectively, in August 2003 to prepare a PEIS/EIR to analyze the potential effects of implementing five categories of short-term projects: water management, reservoir reoperation, system improvements, surface and groundwater planning, and other nonstructural actions such as water transfers. PCWA is a signatory of the Short-Term Settlement Agreement, and reoperation of its MFP is one of the short-term projects included in the PEIS/EIR evaluation. Coordination with the SVWMP also could provide opportunities to identify alternatives to reduce water supply impacts to Sacramento Valley water users, if any, to insignificance to satisfy requirements in the SRWRS study authorization.

¹⁰ The complete title of the Short-Term Settlement Agreement is “Short-Term Agreement to Guide Implementation of Short-Term Water management Actions to Meet Local Water Supply Needs and to Make Water Available to the SWP and CVP to Assist in Meeting the requirements of the 1995 Water Quality Control Plan and to resolve Phase 8 Issues.”